

The 2004 State Hazard Mitigation Plan

The State of California Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) is the official statement of the State's hazard identification, vulnerability analysis, and hazard mitigation strategy. The Plan is the result of a collaborative multi-agency planning process with multiple opportunities for public participation. The goal of this plan is to guide implementation activities to achieve the greatest reduction of vulnerability, which results in saved lives, reduced injuries, reduced property damages, and protection for the environment.

The State of California is required by federal regulations to adopt an SHMP to be eligible for certain disaster assistance and mitigation funding. This requirement was mandated by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Final approval of the plan was given by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The SHMP is a "living document" that will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect changing conditions and new information. The SHMP can be accessed at hazardmitigation.oes.ca.gov/plan/state_multi-hazard_mitigation_plan_shmp or by contacting the OES Hazard Mitigation Branch at (916) 845-8150, or by using the SHMP order form on the OES Hazard Mitigation website at hazardmitigation.oes.ca.gov/contact.

The State Hazard Mitigation Team

While the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has lead responsibility for the development and maintenance of the SHMP, the plan is developed by a state-wide collaborative process involving the participation of many federal, state, and local agencies, academic institutions, and others. A State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT) meets regularly to develop the statewide strategies, priorities, and goals that are the core of the plan. The SHMT is composed of members from the following state agencies:

- Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC)
- Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF)
- Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR)
- California Geological Survey (CGS)
- Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Overview of the State Hazard Mitigation Team Member Agencies

Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES, www.oes.ca.gov):

Through the Emergency Services Act, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services is given the prime responsibility of coordinating the State's Response, Recovery and Preparedness to natural and manmade disasters. OES coordinates federal support and programs administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The OES Hazard Mitigation Branch is managed by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO). The SHMO is responsible for development of the State of California Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, coordinating mitigation programs and grant opportunities with other agencies, managing the FEMA Mitigation Grant programs, and acting as liaison to FEMA's mitigation division.

To contact OES's Hazard Mitigation branch, call (916) 845-8150 or use the form on the OES Hazard Mitigation website at hazardmitigation.oes.ca.gov/contact.

Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC, <http://www.seismic.ca.gov>):

The primary role of the California Seismic Safety Commission is to set goals and priorities for earthquake safety. The commission also drafts and promotes legislation to enhance seismic safety. It is composed of representatives from various state, local, and private entities, with consultants and contributors representing a broader spectrum of interests, including federal agencies.

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF, <http://www.fire.ca.gov>):

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection protects the people of the state from fires, responds to emergencies, and protects and enhances forest, range, and watershed values that provide social, economic and environmental benefits. The department oversees a wide range of programs and activities to promote fire prevention and fire loss mitigation, including the Fire Safe and Firewise programs, cooperative fire protection initiatives, code enforcement, land use/wildfire protection planning, hazardous fuel reduction, forest stewardship, forest and rangeland research, and citizen involvement. CDF works closely with numerous partners, including local governments through contractual fire protection agreements and federal agencies through the California Wildfire Coordinating Group and the California Fire Alliance, and participates in many taskforces and working groups initiated through the authority of other agencies.

Department of Water Resources (DWR, <http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov>):

The Department of Water Resources coordinates with various agencies, including FEMA and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to mitigate flood impacts in California. DWR is the State coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), FEMA's floodplain management program. The department is also a member of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, which is developing and implementing a long-term comprehensive plan to restore ecological health and improve water management in San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

After the floods of the 1990s, DWR began coordinating several multi-agency efforts, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study (Comp Study) and the Floodplain Management Task Force. The Comp Study, which is jointly led by the California Board of Reclamation and USACE, has made significant new recommendations about how to mitigate potential floods and ecosystem losses. The Floodplain Management Task Force has made numerous recommendations to guide floodplain management decisions.

Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR, <http://www.opr.ca.gov>):

Among other duties, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) provides guidance to local governments in the preparation of their general plans. Every city and county in the state must prepare a general plan to guide development. The plan must include a safety element, the goal of which is to reduce the potential risk of death, injury, property damage, and economic and social dislocation due to hazards such as floods, wildfires, and earthquakes. OPR also operates the State Clearinghouse, which coordinates state agency review of environmental documents prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Clearinghouse will coordinate the state agency review of this draft Plan.

California Geological Survey (CGS, <http://www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs>):

The California Geological Survey develops and disseminates technical information and advice on California's geology, geologic hazards, and mineral resources. In terms of hazard assessment, CGS is responsible for identifying and mapping geologic hazards and estimating the potential consequences and the likelihood of occurrence of various hazard events.

Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD, <http://www.hcd.ca.gov>):

As California's principal housing agency, the mission of the Department of Housing and Community Development is to provide leadership, policies, and programs to expand and preserve safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities for all Californians.